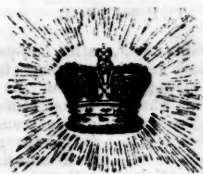


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MARRIAGE

OF

VICTORIA THE FIRST,

SOVEREIGN OF ENGLAND,

WITH

PRINCE ALBERT,

OF SAXE COBURG AND GOTHA,

At St. James's Chapel Royal, Westminster, February 1. M.DCCCL.

FROM the first moment the public ear heard our Sovereign was to be betrothed, the most intense curiosity pervaded all ranks to learn who was to be the high-affianced one. At length the day arrived, when all doubts were to be dispelled; and the Privy Councillors having been summoned to Buckingham Palace, [November 23, 1839] Her Majesty made the avowal of her intended purpose, in the following declaration:—

"I have caused you to be summoned at the present time in order that I may acquaint you with my resolution in a matter which deeply concerns the welfare of my people, and the happiness of my future life.

"It is my determination to ally myself in marriage with the Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. Deeply impressed with the solemnity of the engagement which I am about to contract, I have not come to this decision without mature consideration, nor without feeling a strong assurance that, with the blessing of Almighty God, it will at once secure my domestic felicity, and serve the interests of my country.

"I have thought fit to make this resolution known to you at the earliest period, in order that you may be fully apprised of a matter so highly important to me, and to my kingdom, and which, I persuade myself, will be most acceptable to all my loving subjects."

No sooner was the name of the favoured one known, than all eyes were turned towards the "Rising Sun;" and every increasing inquiry reiterated his praises, and also of the judgment displayed by Her Majesty in her fortunate choice, and which was corroborated by the high encomiums passed on Prince Albert, by the Duke of Cambridge, in the House of Lords, January 16th last.

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Immediate preparations were made for the eventful and joyous ceremony. Parliament voted the Prince 30,000*l.* to support his new dignity, and he was invested with the Order of the Garter. Taking a farewell of the home of his fathers, he hastened to the shores of Britain, there to solemnly wed himself to England, and to England's queen. His Royal Highness reached the port of Dover on the 6th ult.; the following day he arrived at Canterbury, and on the 8th at Buckingham Palace, where the Lord Chancellor administered the oaths of allegiance and supremacy directed to be taken by the act naturalizing the Prince: hence,

"WE WELCOME HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS TO HIS ADOPTED COUNTRY IN A SPIRIT OF FRANK AND TRUE CORDIALITY. WE WISH HIM ALL HAPPINESS. WE WISH HIM THE FULL REWARD OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE VIRTUE IN A NATION'S APPROVAL AND IN HIS OWN. AND SO, GALLANT STRANGER, WE BID YOU WELCOME; AND GOD PROSPER AND PROTECT YOU!"

The auspicious Tenth of February, 1840, arrived. To a people so loyal, and so predisposed to be pleased with royal processions as the English, the marriage of their Queen, and that Queen, too, youthful and lovely, and whose reign is likely to be so pregnant with good or evil, was an event well calculated, it would seem, to elicit their warmest and deepest sympathies; an event, with which long-cherished hopes, and their fondest expectations, would, it might be said, be constitutionally, if not naturally, associated. And, certainly, if numbers can be considered as any test of these feelings, the British people have lost none of that devoted attachment to the monarchy, for which they have been so eminently distinguished.

* Times Journal, No. 17,976.

28.72-109.

The weather, during the preceding night, was more boisterous than any we have experienced during the winter. It "blew great guns" from ten o'clock until sunrise, when—

"The dawn was overcast, the morning lower'd,
And heavily in clouds brought on the day,
The great, th' important day."

on which were to be celebrated the nuptials of our maiden Sovereign, and Prince Albert of Saxe Coburg.

It continued to rain almost without intermission until noon, when the weather partially cleared up, and continued fine, but threatening, during the remainder of the day.

All ranks of the people in the metropolis, and for many miles around, began to rise before the appearance of the dawn, some to prepare to take their stations in the progress of the approaching great ceremony; but the great multitude, of course, thinking that their exertions would be well repaid, if they could get only a moment's glimpse of the Queen and her husband, or even a glance at the procession going and returning. Notwithstanding the discouraging weather, the streets were crowded at an early hour with thousands, coming from every point of the compass, and making the best of their way, with emulous and unceremonious haste, to St. James's Park, as one common centre. The concourse of females was prodigious. It seemed as if every one of her Majesty's sex, from the infant in arms to the decrepit matron, now far advanced in second childhood, had made a vow not to stay at home. Women, who could not see their way without spectacles, nor walk it without crutches, were to be seen anxiously struggling for precedence at every point of the park, whence a glance at the Queen and Prince might be obtained; and, having once obtained an eligible spot, they held fast by it, heedless of the too frequent probabilities of being crushed or trodden to death. The trees, the lamp-posts, and the spikes of the railings, were contended for with as much eagerness as if the summit of every one's ambition was at the top of one or other of these elevations; and the wonder was, how many, who had climbed up to certain dangerous eminences, could ever get down in safety again. However, these adventurous folks justly thought, that that question was their own "look out," and no one's else's. About ten o'clock St. James's Park was completely filled with a vast, miscellaneous, curious multitude, not a tithe of whom, unfortunately, could see even the carriage of the Queen when it did at length pass.

All those distinguished persons who had any official connection with the approaching great event, were at their posts at an early hour. The Lord Bishop of London, who is Dean of the Chapel Royal of St. James's, was present at eight o'clock, personally taking care that every department was arranged as had been ordered. The chapel began to fill at nine o'clock. By eleven it was crowded;

after half-past eleven, none but the leading personages interested in the occasion were admitted. At this time the area of the chapel, though confined, presented a *coup d'œil* of exquisite grandeur and effect. Many tasteful judges thought the spectacle here was more interesting than at the coronation; for the eye, without being fatigued in surveying an almost interminable succession of splendid figures, could, within a small compass, view a selection of colours and objects best calculated to please and impress the senses.

ST. JAMES'S PALACE.

The Throne Room.

On the arrival of the Queen at St. James's Palace, her Majesty was conducted to her closet immediately behind the Throne-room, where she remained attended by the Maids of Honour and Trainbearers, until the summons was received from the Lord Chamberlain conveying the intimation that everything was duly prepared for the Sovereign's moving towards the Chapel.

In this room the formal procession may be said to have been formed and marshalled.

Presence Chamber.

In this room the principal individuals who were to fall into the different processions were congregated.

Queen Anne's Drawing-room.

Round the southern side of this room a gallery was erected, consisting of several rows of seats, each capable of accommodating a considerable number of visitors. Through this room the processions passed into

The Guard or Armoury-room,

in which a gallery on a smaller scale was raised. The procession progressed from this into the Vestibule, and from that down the

Grand Staircase,

opposite to which a gallery had been put up capable of containing about 150 persons.

The Colonnade.

Shortly after nine o'clock the seats in the colonnade began to be taken possession of, and ere many minutes had elapsed there remained but few of the seats unoccupied, although there was an occasional arrival down to eleven o'clock.

At this hour the appearance which the scene presented was one of extreme animation, inasmuch as by far the greater portion of the assembled company was composed of elegantly, and, in some instances, brilliantly dressed ladies. It were a matter of impossibility to enter upon an attempt to give anything like a minute detailed the attire either of the one sex or of the other, for it comprised every known colour, and embraced every description of style of make. The most conspicuous dresses were of light

blue relieved with white, light green also intermingled with white, amber, crimson, purple, fawn, stone, and a considerable number of white robes only. Every lady exhibited a wedding favour, some of which were admirable specimens of a refined taste. They were of all sizes, many of white satin riband, tied up into bows, and mixed with layers of rich silver lace, others merely of riband, intermixed with sprigs of orange-flower blossom, whilst were here and there to be seen bouquets of huge dimensions of riband and massive silver bullion, having in their centre what might almost be termed a branch of orange blossoms. Large as they were, however, they were not more so than the apparent devotion of their owners, if the anxiety with which they watched every movement of the officials passing to and fro, from the instant they entered the colonnade until the last of the "men of State" had quitted the scene, may be taken as a criterion.

It was remarked that "favourites" did not form a very general appendage with the male branch of the spectators, notwithstanding there were many who had not failed to furnish themselves with this distinguishing emblem of the occasion. Some gentlemen there were, also, who did not even pay the respect to their Sovereign of providing court dresses. There appeared, nevertheless, to have been an unanimity of feeling with regard to the total banishment of black, except in a rare instance where a shawl or scarf of that hue was to be discovered.

The colonnade through which the procession passed to the chapel was not only excellently arranged, but was admirably lighted from the lanterns above, and the windows behind. The seats, which were separated from the pillared colonnade by a dwarf railing, were covered with crimson cushions with gold-coloured borders and fringe. All the remainder of this temporary structure had the semblance of having been constructed of solid masonry. The floor of the colonnade was covered with rich Brussels carpet, which extended into the vestibule, up the grand staircase to the armoury, through the presence-chamber to Queen Anne's drawing-room, and thence to the antechamber and Throne-room, where her Majesty and Prince Albert's portions of the procession were marshalled. The seats erected for the accommodation of the spectators were covered with crimson cushions and yellow fringe, thus sustaining uniformity throughout. They were railed off from the line of procession.

There were but few of the nobility or officers of state who entered the chapel by the colonnade or royal passage, but, amongst that number were Earl Fitzwilliam and Earl Spencer, the Earl and Countess of Carlisle, the Duke and Duchess of Somerset, the Duke of Devonshire, the Marquis of Anglesey, the Marquis of Westminster, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Archbishop of York, the Bishop of London, and the Duke of Wellington.

The Chapel.

The principal entrances to the Chapel Royal were, from the Ambassadors'-court, and the colour quadrangle, opposite St. James's-street. The interior is oblong, standing east and west, about sixty-two feet in length, and twenty-five in breadth. At the upper or eastern end is the communion table, and at the lower end, abutting over the main entrance, is the Royal gallery or closet. Two galleries, supported by cast-iron pillars, stretched east and west the entire length of the chapel. On the floor, placed longitudinally, were two pews on each side of the chapel, set apart for the chief nobility, and those who took part in the procession. The galleries, east and west, from both sides of the altar to the royal closet, were occupied—the upper end, on the right, by the Cabinet Ministers and their ladies, on the left by the ladies and officers of her Majesty's household. Below the choir, on the right, and in the galleries opposite, usually appropriated as Royal closets, the walls of the building were thrown out, and six benches on each side fitted up for the accommodation of peers, peeresses, and other distinguished spectators. The royal closet was assigned to the ambassadors and their ladies, five rows of seats, elevated one above the other, having been erected for their accommodation. The whole of the seats in the chapel were stuffed, covered with crimson cloth, and elegantly ornamented with gold fringe. On the communion table was displayed a vast quantity of golden plate, including six salvers, one of gigantic dimensions, two ponderous and rich vases, four flagons, four communion-cups, and two lofty and magnificent candelabra. The cornice above the altar, of beautifully carved oak, was richly gilt, superb crimson velvet drapery depending from it in graceful folds upon the communion table. Within the railing, which was also covered with crimson velvet, stools were placed on the right of the altar, for the Archbishops of Canterbury and York; and on the left for the Bishop of London, Dean of the Chapel Royal. In front of the communion table were placed four chairs of state, gilt, and covered with crimson silk velvet, each of different construction, and varying in elevation, according to the dignity of their intended occupants. The highest, largest in size, and most costly in workmanship, was of course appropriated to Her Majesty, and was placed somewhat to the right of the centre; that on the opposite side, immediately on Her Majesty's right hand, being set apart for His Royal Highness Prince Albert. Before these chairs, which were placed about six feet outside the rail, footstools were set of corresponding structure and decoration. There were also foot-stools for Her Majesty and Prince Albert, on which to kneel at the altar. On Her Majesty's left a chair was placed for the Duchess of Kent; and at the opposite side, on Prince Albert's right, one for the Queen Dowager. On Her Majesty's extreme

left were seats for their Royal Highnesses the Dukes of Sussex and Cambridge; and on Prince Albert's extreme right, for his Serene Highness the reigning Duke of Saxe Coburg, the hereditary Duke, and their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Cambridge, Prince George of Cambridge, Princess Augusta and Princess Mary of Cambridge. The floor of the chapel was covered with rich purple and gold carpeting, the prominent figure being the Norman rose. The *tout ensemble*, both as concerns the extension, decoration, and entire arrangements of the interior, completely harmonized with the original design and structure of the chapel; simplicity and elegance, not show or gaudiness, being the uniform characteristic. The ceiling is composed of antique fretwork compartments varying in size and figure, on the panelling of which are emblazoned the quarterings and heraldic distinctions of the different members of the Royal Family, from the time of its erection to that of his late Majesty William IV. and Queen Adelaide.

About half-past eleven o'clock, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and the Bishop of London, took their places within the altar.

A few minutes before twelve, the Queen Dowager entered the Chapel Royal through the Dean's vestry-door, and took her seat near the altar. Her Majesty was arrayed in a robe of rich silk purple velvet, trimmed with ermine. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and the Bishop of London, immediately rose on the entrance of her Majesty. Her Majesty, after performing her private devotions, perceiving the most rev. prelates still standing, sent Lord Howe, who was in waiting, to desire that they might take their seats.

A flourish of trumpets and drums at twenty-five minutes past twelve o'clock gave intimation that the procession of the Royal bridegroom had commenced its movement, and shortly after, having passed through the various rooms to which we have alluded, it entered the colonnade in the following order:—

Drums and Trumpets.
Sergeant Trumpeter,
Master of the Ceremonies.

Launcester Herald, York Herald,
The Bridegroom's Gentlemen of Honour.

Vice-Chamberlain of Her
Majesty's Household.

Lord Chamberlain of Her
Majesty's Household.

THE BRIDEGROOM,

Wearing the Collar of the Order of the Garter.
Supported by their Serene Highnesses the reigning Duke of Saxe Coburg and Gotha,
And the Hereditary Prince of Saxe Coburg and Gotha,
Each attended by Officers of their Suite, namely,
Count Kolowrat, Baron Alvensleben, and Baron de Lowenfels.

As the Prince moved along, he was greeted with loud clapping of hands from the gentlemen, and enthusiastic waving of handkerchiefs from the assembled ladies. He wore the uniform of a Field Marshal in the British army. Over his shoulders was hung the Collar of the Garter, surmounted by two white rosettes. His appearance was attractive and much improved since his arrival on Saturday; and with his pale and pensive looks, he won golden opinions from the fair coterie, near which we were sitting. His father was dressed in a dark-blue uniform, similar to that worn by the life guards. His Serene Highness wore the collar of the Order of the Garter, and the Star, and the Star of the Order of Coburg Gotha; who, with his eldest son, were also welcomed with the utmost cordiality. Both seemed pleased with their reception; and the Hereditary Prince, who has more of determination, but less of good-natured complaisance in his countenance than his brother, testified his sense of it by repeatedly bowing his thanks to the fair ladies at his side.

On reaching the Chapel Royal, the drums and trumpets fled off without the doors, and, the procession advancing, his Royal Highness was conducted to the seat provided for him on the left of the altar. His Royal Highness walked up the aisle, carrying what appeared

to be a cadeau, or a book, in his right hand, and repeatedly bowed to the peers in the body of the chapel. His form, dress, and demeanour, were much admired. It might well be said of him, in the language of Scott,

"Shaped in proportion fair,
Hazel was his eagle eye,
And autumn of the darkest dye,
His short mustache and hair."

Having reached the *haut pas*, his Royal Highness affectionately kissed the hand of the Queen Dowager, and then bowed to the Archbishops and Dean. Immediately on his entrance, a voluntary was performed by Sir George Smart on the organ. The Master of the Ceremonies and the officers of the bridegroom, stood near the person of his Royal Highness. The Lord Chamberlain and Vice-Chamberlain, preceded by the drums and trumpets, then returned to wait upon Her Majesty.

After having conducted the Royal Prince to the altar, the Lord Steward and the Lord Chamberlain quitted the Royal Bridegroom for the purpose of conducting the Queen to the altar. In a few minutes, that which was denominated the Queen's procession was announced by a flourish of trumpets and drums, as having been put in motion. The procession passed through the colonnade up to the chapel doors, in the subjoined order:—

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Vice-Ch
of Her
Hous

Lady Ad
Lady Str
Lady Fra
Lady Eli
Lady Mar
Lady Ele

Mar
The Earl

The Mar
The Count
The Lady

The Hon.
The Hon.
The Hon.

Lady
Mrs. Brau
Captain of
of the

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THE QUEEN'S PROCESSION.

Drums and Trumpets.
Sergeant Trumpeter.
Pursuivants.
Heralds.
Pages of Honour.

Equerry in Waiting.
Groom in Waiting.
Controller of Her Majesty's
Household.
Master of Her Majesty's Buck Hounds.
Norroy King of Arms.
Lord Privy Seal.
Two Sergeants at Arms.

Clerk Marshal.
Lord in Waiting.
Treasurer of Her Majesty's
Household.
The Lord Steward of Her Majesty's Household.
Clarendon King of Arms.
Lord President of the Council.
Two Sergeants at Arms.

Lord High Chancellor.
Senior Gentleman Usher Quarterly Waiter.
Gentleman Usher Daily Waiter,
and to the Sword of State.

Garter King of Arms.

Gentleman Usher of the
Black Rod.

The Earl Marshal.
Her Royal Highness the Princess Sophia Matilda of Gloucester.
Princess Augusta of Cambridge.
Prince George of Cambridge.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambridge,
and her Royal Highness the Princess Mary of Cambridge.
Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent,
attended by a Lady of her Royal Highness's household.

Her Royal Highness, Princess Augusta,
attended by a Lady of her Royal Highness's household.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge.
His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex.

Each attended by a Gentleman of their Royal Highnesses' household.

Vice-Chamberlain
of Her Majesty's
Household.

The Sword of State,
borne by Lord
Viscount Melbourne.

Lord Chamberlain
of Her Majesty's
Household.

THE QUEEN.

Wearing the Collar of the Order of the Garter.

Her Majesty's train borne by the following twelve unmarried Ladies, viz. :—

Lady Adelaide Paget.
Lady Sarah Frederica Caroline Villiers.
Lady Frances Elizabeth Cowper.
Lady Elizabeth West.
Lady Mary Augusta Frederica Grimston.
Lady Eleanor Caroline Paget.

Lady Caroline Amelia Gordon Leunox.
Lady Elizabeth Anne Georgiana Dorothea Howard.
Lady Ida Harriet Augusta Hay.
Lady Catherine Lucy Wilhelmina Stanhope.
Lady Jane Harriet Bouverie.
Lady Mary Charlotte Howard.

Assisted by the Groom of the Robes.

Mistress of the Robes,
The Duchess of Sutherland.

Master of the Horse,
The Earl of Albemarle, G.C.H.

Ladies of the Bedchamber :—

The Marchioness of Normanby.
The Countess of Burlington.
The Lady Portman.

The Duchess of Bedford.
The Countess of Sandwich.
The Lady Barham.

The Dowager Lady Lyttelton.

Maids of Honour :—

The Hon. Amelia Murray.
The Hon. Caroline Cocks.
The Hon. Matilda Paget.

The Hon. Harriet Pitt.
The Hon. Henrietta Anson.
The Hon. Harriet Lister.

The Hon. Sarah Mary Cavendish.

Women of the Bedchamber :—

Lady Harriet Clive.
Lady Charlotte Copley.
Mrs. Brand.
Captain of the Yeomen
of the Guard.

The Hon. Mrs. Campbell.

Gold Stick.

Keeper of the Privy Purse.
Six Gentlemen at Arms.

Viscountess Forbes.
Lady Caroline Barrington.
Lady Garsier.
Captain of the Band of
Gentlemen at Arms.

It will be seen from this official programme, how the heralds had marshalled the different members of the procession. Scarcely any notice was taken of the individuals who led the way in it, until the Lord Chancellor made his appearance. Every sympathy was awakened on behalf of her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent; but she appeared somewhat disconsolate and distressed. His Royal Highness

the Duke of Sussex, who was to give away the Royal bride, seemed in excellent spirits. Lord Melbourne carried the sword of state. Her Majesty came next, looking anxious and excited. She was paler even than usual. Her dress was a rich white satin, trimmed with orange-flower blossoms. On her head, she wore a wreath of the same blossoms, over which, but not so as to conceal her face, a

beautiful veil of Honiton lace was thrown. Her bridesmaids and trainbearers were similarly attired, save that they had no veils. Her Majesty wore the Collar of the Garter, but no other diamonds or jewels. Her attendants were arrayed with similar simplicity. With one exception, the praises which Dryden has ascribed to the companions of his Queen, in the "Flower and the Leaf," are equally applicable to these attendants of our young and amiable sovereign :—

"A train less fair, as ancient fathers tell,
Seduc'd the sons of Heaven to rebel;
I pass their form, and every charming grace—
Less than an angel would their worth debase;
But their attire, like liveries of a kind,
Simple but rich, is fresh within my mind;
In satin white as snow the troop was gown'd,
The seams with sparkling emeralds set around."

Every face was turned upon them and their Royal mistress. Theirs were fixed upon hers, and as they moved and turned in conformity with her steps, it was evident that female vanity was, for a time, deadened in their bosoms, and that they were thinking, not of the impression which they themselves created, but of that which was created by the royal bride. They were followed by the Duchess of Sutherland. Of the Ladies of the Bedchamber, and the Maids of Honour, we have only to say, that they did honour to the court, and to their places in the procession. It was closed, not as the official statement announced, by six Yeomen of the Guard, but by two officers in polished cuirasses, and in dirty boots, who commanded the squadron of Life Guards on duty at the Palace.

As her Majesty approached the chapel, the national anthem was performed by the instrumental band. Her Majesty walked up the aisle, followed by her trainbearers and attendants, without noticing or bowing to any of the peers. On reaching the *haut pas* her Majesty knelt on her footstool, and having performed her private devotions, sat down in her chair of state. The different officers of state having now taken their seats in the body of the chapel, the *coup d'œil* was splendid beyond description.

"Lords, ladies, captains, councillors, and priests,
Their choice nobility and flower; embassies
From regions far remote,
In various habits,
Met from all parts to celebrate the day."

After the lapse of a few seconds her Majesty rose, and advanced with his Royal Highness Prince Albert to the communion table, where the Archbishop of Canterbury immediately commenced reading the service.

The rubric was rigidly adhered to throughout.

The Archbishop of Canterbury read the service with great appropriateness and much feeling, the Bishop of London repeating the responses.

When his Grace came to the words,

"Albert, wilt thou have this woman to be thy wedded wife, to live together after God's

ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Wilt thou love her, comfort her, honour, and keep her in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all other, keep thee only unto her, so long as ye both shall live?"

His Royal Highness, in a firm tone, replied, "I will."

And when he said,

"Victoria, wilt thou have Albert to thy wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance, in the holy estate of matrimony? Wilt thou obey him, and serve him, love, honour, and keep in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all other, keep thee only unto him, so long as ye both shall live?" Her Majesty, in a firm voice, and a tone audible in all parts of the chapel, replied, "I will."

The Archbishop of Canterbury then said, "Who giveth this woman to be married to this man?"

His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, who occupied a seat on the left of her Majesty, now advanced, and, taking her Majesty's hand, said, "I do." The Archbishop of Canterbury then laid hold of her Majesty's hand, and pressing it in that of Prince Albert's, pronounced these words, his Royal Highness repeating them after his Grace :—

"I, Albert, take thee, Victoria, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I plight thee my troth."

Her Majesty repeated these words, *mutatis mutandis*, "I Victoria, take thee, Albert, to my wedded husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love, cherish, and to obey, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I give thee my troth."

The Archbishop of Canterbury then took the ring, a plain gold ring, from his Royal Highness, and placing it to the fourth finger of her Majesty, returned it to his Royal Highness. Prince Albert put it on, repeating after his Grace these words—"With this ring I thee wed, with my body I thee worship, and with all my worldly goods I thee endow; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen."

The Archbishop then concluded the service as follows, her Majesty and Prince Albert still remaining standing at the altar :—

"O Eternal God, Creator and Preserver of all mankind, Giver of all spiritual grace, the Author of everlasting life, send thy blessing upon these thy servants, Victoria and Albert, whom we bless in thy name; that, as Isaac and Rebecca lived faithfully together, so these persons may surely perform and keep the vow and covenant betwixt them made (whereof this ring given and received is a token and pledge), and may ever remain in perfect love

and peace together, and live according to thy laws, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

"Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder."

The Park and Tower guns then fired a Royal salute.

The Archbishop of Canterbury then proceeded :—

"Forasmuch as Albert and Victoria have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have given and pledged their troth either to other, and have declared the same by giving and receiving of a ring, and by joining of hands, I pronounce that they be man and wife together. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

"God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favour look upon you; and so fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace, that ye may so live together in this life, that, in the world to come, ye may have life everlasting. Amen."

The choir then performed the *Deus Misereatur*, (King's in B flat,) the verse parts being doubled by the choir, and sung by Messrs. Knvyett, Wyld, Neil, Vaughan, Sale, and Bradbury, on the *decantati* side; and on the *cantoris*, by Evans, Salmon, Horncastle, Roberts, Welsh, and Clarke.

Sir George Smart presided at the organ.

The Archbishop of Canterbury then proceeded :—

"Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. Amen.

"Minister.—O Lord, save thy servant, and thy handmaid :

"Answer.—Who put their trust in thee.

"Minister.—O Lord, send them help from thy holy place :

"Answer.—And evermore defend them.

"Minister.—Be unto them a tower of strength :

"Answer.—From the face of their enemy.

"Minister.—O Lord, hear our prayer :

"Answer.—And let our cry come unto thee.

"Minister.—O God of Abraham, God of Isaac, God of Jacob, bless these thy servants, and sow the seed of eternal life in their hearts; that whatsoever in thy holy word they shall profitably learn, they may in deed fulfill the same. Look, O Lord, mercifully upon them from heaven and bless them. And as thou didst send thy blessing upon Abraham and Sarah, to their great comfort, so vouchsafe to send thy blessing upon these thy servants; that they, obeying thy will, and always abiding in safety under thy protection, may

abide in thy love unto their lives' end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

The Archbishop of Canterbury proceeded to the end with the remainder of the service, as prescribed in the book of Common Prayer, Her Majesty and Prince Albert still standing before the communion table.

The service having concluded, the several members of the Royal Family who had occupied places around the altar returned to take their positions in the procession. On passing Her Majesty, they all paid their congratulations, and the Duke of Sussex, after shaking her by the hand in a manner which appeared to have little ceremony, but with cordiality in it, affectionately kissed her cheek. After all had passed, with the exception of the Royal bride and bridegroom, Her Majesty stepped hastily across to the other side of the altar, where the Queen Dowager was standing, and kissed her.

Prince Albert then took Her Majesty's hand, and the Royal pair left the chapel, all the spectators standing.

The whole of the impressive ceremony was conducted with the utmost dignity and simplicity. The arrangements happily combined for splendid effect and convenient disposition. Apart from the great historical and national associations with which the royal pair were invested, their personal appearance and manner excited affectionate interest, and if they had approached the altar without any of that regal pomp which surrounded them, a strange spectator would have wished well to HER as a graceful young maiden, and to HIM as a modest, honest, but withal a gallant-looking young fellow. But, considered with reference to all its great connections, the ceremony was solemn and awful in the highest degree; for while one prayed for prosperity to those whose hands he saw joined, he could not help reflecting, that he and the vast surrounding anxious multitude would most probably have been all long consigned to their respective tombs before a similar event should again be celebrated in the royal house of England.

Long as the English monarchy has endured, the marriage of Queen VICTORIA with Prince ALBERT is the first marriage of a QUEEN REGNANT, with one exception, which the English people ever witnessed. That one exception was, in every respect, an unhappy one. This second instance of a *reigning* QUEEN will, we trust, be in every respect its auspicious contrast.

After the marriage, the Queen and her husband proceeded to the Throne Room in St. James's Palace, where the Bishop of London opened the register in which the marriages of the Royal personages of England have been recorded for many a generation. The Queen first wrote her name; Prince Albert signed next; then in succession affixed their attestations, the Duke of Sussex, the Princess Augusta, the Duke of Cambridge, the Princess

Sophia Matilda, the young Princess of Cambridge, the Archbishop of York, the Duke of Norfolk, the Marquis of Lansdowne, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Melbourne, and the Bishop of London. Adjoining was to be seen the magnificent banqueting-room, the sideboard refulgent with costly plate, all gold. Among other vessels of historical interest was part of the spoils from the Admiral's ship of the Spanish Armada. Covers were laid for 150 guests, who were to assemble at a commemorative festival at eight o'clock in the evening.

Return from the Chapel Royal.

The deep interest taken by the spectators in the colonnade in the proceedings of the day was shown by the general silence which prevailed up to the period of the Queen's approach. As soon as she had passed into the chapel every tongue seemed set at liberty, and a confused murmur arose, which compelled the attendants to close the doors of the antechapel, lest it should penetrate into the chapel where the solemn rites of religion were performing. A word, however, from one of the officers of the Lord Chamberlain was sufficient to put an end to this impropriety. The doors were again opened, the music of the anthem was faintly heard, the signal-guns ceased to fire, and at a few minutes past one the procession began to re-marshal itself for its return. The bridegroom's procession, which was however robbed of his presence, returned first. Again were the Duke and hereditary Prince of Saxe Coburg loudly cheered. The nuptial procession then returned in the same order as before. On the appearance of her Majesty, hand-in-hand with her Royal husband, the clapping of hands and waving of handkerchiefs were renewed, time after time, until they had passed out of sight. Whether by accident or design, His Royal Highness Prince Albert enclosed her Majesty's hand in his own in such a way as to display the wedding-ring, which appeared more solid than is usual in ordinary weddings. On their return cheers were given to most, if not to all, of the ladies of Royal birth who had received them on their approach. There was, however, one cheer far more long and enthusiastic than any other of the day, reserved for the Duke of Wellington as he left the chapel.

The Return to Buckingham Palace and the Breakfast.

During the interim of the bridal procession's leaving and returning to Buckingham Palace, there was nothing of any interest that occurred in the Park, unless indeed we may mention a desperate shower of rain, which besprinkled her Majesty's subjects, but did not appear to extinguish one spark of their loyalty. At about one o'clock the firing of the guns announced that the ring had been put on the finger, the important part of the ceremony being concluded.

After the ceremony, at twenty-five minutes past one, the first return reached Buckingham Palace, and consisted of the inferior officers of Prince Albert's suite, and the Queen's Gentlemen Ushers, and a Lady of her Majesty's household. At twenty minutes to two the Duchess of Kent returned; her Royal Highness was accompanied by her brother, the Duke of Saxe Coburg Gotha, and Prince Ernest. The Royal Duchess was loudly cheered, which she acknowledged most graciously; and at ten minutes to two o'clock the Royal procession returned. The Prince rode in the carriage with the Queen, who was attended by the Duchess of Sutherland. His Royal Highness assisted her Majesty to alight, and led her into the Palace. The Royal bride entered her own hall with an open and joyous countenance, flushed perhaps in the slightest degree, and in the most smiling and condescending manner acknowledged the loud and cordial cheers which rang through the apartment. The Royal bridegroom handed her Majesty through the state rooms. The Duke of Sussex soon followed. The Duke was dressed in his uniform as Captain-General of the Hon. Artillery Company, and wore the collars and other insignia of the Orders of the Garter, Bath, and St. Andrew. The Duke of Cambridge arrived immediately after, accompanied by the Duchess, Prince George, and the two Princesses. His Royal Highness wore the insignia of the Orders of the Garter and the Bath, and carried his baton as Field Marshal. Prince George was dressed in the uniform of his regiment, and was decorated with the Order of the Garter. The Duke led in the little Princess Mary. The invited guests to the *dejeuner* followed each other in rapid succession.

Wedding Breakfast.

At Buckingham Palace there was a wedding repast, at which several of the illustrious participants in the previous ceremony, and the officers of the household and Ministers of State were present.

The State Banquet.

Was given at St. James's Palace, in the grand banqueting-room. A cross table at the end of the room was appropriated for the principal guests. The rest of the company occupied two long tables at the sides of the room.

In the middle of the cross-table was placed her Majesty's wedding-cake, decorated with four elegant flags of white satin, containing the royal arms.

The gold plate was used at the banquet, and the plateaus of all the tables contained some of the finest *epergues* and candelabra in the royal collection, embellished with classical and mythological subjects.

A magnificent sideboard at the end of the room, hung with crimson drapery, looped up with white rosettes, the highest in the centre, surmounted by an imperial crown, displayed

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to great advantage, a great number of every variety of shields, salvers, vases, tankards, and cups, interspersed and illuminated with candelabra and sconces.

The shield immediately under the crown, had a fine alto-relievo—the subject, a battle piece. At the bottom of the sideboard were a number of choice tankards and cups, the most interesting of the number being the national cup, designed by Flaxman, with the Patron Saints of England, Ireland, and Scotland, in niches introduced on the circumference, and between the divisions, the national badges of the three nations, formed by precious stones, and surmounted each by crowns. The cover of this cup represents the combat of St. George and the Dragon. Under the centre shield, were a curious salver, from Mexico, and the antique urn captured from the Spanish Armada. In the principal division, were also the shield of Achilles, and a very large gold dish, with a very deep and elegant border, modelled from Stothard's design. Among the tankards, was a very large one, having inserted in it a great number of medals, struck in Holland during the time of the Commonwealth, in honour of the Knights of the Garter. A medallion of Charles II. is placed in the centre. The handle is formed by the figure of a dragon, and the tankard has on the top a large crown adorned with precious stones, the cushion formed by a single amethyst of large size. Bulb and crystal cups, and others with enamelled paintings or enriched with precious stones, and several vases copied from the Warwick vase, were among the collection, which also included some statuary groupings executed in gold.

The Departure for Windsor.

At the conclusion of the breakfast, arrangements were made for the immediate departure of her Majesty for Windsor, and at a quarter to four the Royal party left Buckingham Palace. The first carriage was occupied only by Her Majesty and Prince Albert; the second by his Serene Highness Prince Ernest of Saxe-Coburg, and three others by the Lord and Lady in Waiting, the Groom of the Chamber, Equerry, two Maids of Honour, and other attendants of Her Majesty and his Royal Highness. Just before the royal cortege left Buckingham Palace, the sun shone forth with full brightness, the skies were cleared of their murky clouds, and all things seemed to promise that future happiness which we sincerely trust may be the lot of the illustrious pair.

The Prince was dressed in a plain dark travelling dress, and her Majesty in a white satin pelisse, trimmed with swansdown, with a white satin bonnet and feather.

Arrival at Windsor.

From an early hour in the morning, the bells of the parish church continued to ring merry peals, until long after the arrival of the illustrious persons.

Never until that day has the Royal Standard of England floated from the turret of the round tower in the absence of the Sovereign; but at a quarter-past twelve o'clock,

"The flag, which braved a thousand years,
The battle and the breeze,"

was displayed from the tower, leading many persons to imagine, that her Majesty and the Prince had privately arrived at the Castle; several persons immediately proceeded to the Royal residence to make the necessary inquiries, when it was ascertained that the flag had been hoisted in pursuance of orders to that effect.

Her Majesty and her Royal Consort did not arrive until a few minutes before seven o'clock. Agreeably to the expectations which had been formed of the route which would be taken, the Royal cavalcade, consisting of three carriages, took the road from Slough to Windsor. The whole town was illuminated before the Royal cavalcade entered; and the effect produced by the glitter of the lights on the congregated multitude was exceedingly splendid. Every house in Windsor was illuminated; many of them were handsomely decorated with flags, laurels, mottoes, and artificial bouquets. Ingenious devices and transparent representations of the Queen and Prince Albert, were very numerous.

At Eton her Majesty was received by the Etonians, who were drawn up to receive the Queen and the Prince, opposite the College. Her Majesty appeared to be highly gratified at these demonstrations of loyalty and attachment. The Etonians escorted her Majesty through Eton, cheering the Royal pair the whole of the way.

The illuminations were in full blaze when her Majesty passed through.

The erection, representing the façade of the Parthenon of Athens, had a most imposing effect. It consisted of six columns, studded with lamps, surmounted with the Queen's arms, similarly emblazoned. On the top were seven flags, and beneath the following in variegated lamps:—

"Gratulatur Etona Victoriæ et Alberto."

In the quadrangle of the College, under the clock tower, were several illuminated devices. On each side of a large crown, which was encircled with laurel branches, were the initials V. R., and beneath a Star, with a Lozenge on each side. The archway was surrounded by seven rows of lamps, and double festoons of laurel extended the whole length of the building, on each side of the tower.

The Rev. Mr. Cookeley erected an extensive arch, composed of laurel and variegated lamps, with various devices across the road, under which the royal cortege passed on their way to Windsor. The centre was composed of festoons, from which was suspended on each side, two stars.



THE ROYAL WEDDING CAKE.

THIS Royal Cake weighed nearly three hundred pounds. It was three yards in circumference, and about fourteen inches in depth, or thickness. It was covered with sugar of the purest white; on the top was the figure of Britannia, in the act of blessing the illustrious bride and bridegroom—somewhat incongruously in the costume of ancient Rome. These figures were eleven inches in height; at the feet of his Serene Highness was the effigy of a dog, to denote fidelity; and, at the feet of the Queen, a pair of turtle-doves, denoting the felicity of the marriage state. A Cupid, writing in a volume expanded on his

knees, the date of the day of the marriage, and various other Cupids sporting and enjoying themselves, as such interesting little individuals generally do. These little figures were well modelled. On the top of the Cake were numerous bouquets of white flowers, tied with true lovers' knots of white satin riband, intended for presents to the guests at the nuptial breakfast.

This important adjunct to the festivities of the Royal Nuptials, was the result of the labours and taste of Mr. J. C. Mauditt, the yeoman confectioner of the Royal Household, and evidenced talents of a superior order.

FAIRY LABOURS,

OR,

THE BUILDING OF THE QUEEN'S BRIDE-CAKE.

THE world has been a cake-making world, ever since from the first ages, its bosom bore corn, and spice, and fruit:—from the days that beautiful Sarai, Abraham's princess, kneaded the dough with her own hand, and baked the fine wheaten confections for the angels, down to the time that clever King Arthur burnt his fingers at the gudo-wife's hearth-stone. Yes, cake-making hath ever been a choice and well-beloved fashion—from the dark age wherein the Teutonic "cuck" was softened into the more euphonious "cake,"

down to the marriage-day inclusive of our Sovereign Lady, the First Victoria. But, to use a Miltonic superlative—the "famousst" of the cake kind, was that constructed on the last-mentioned occasion, surpassing all its predecessors, by just as much in proportion, as Olympus does a wart. And though search be made among the Annals of olden History, be they Anglican or Foreign, among the noblest recountals of gorgeous fête and sumptuous entertainment, none will be found to equal this—none but itself can be its parallel! Never were the sweets of Arabia Felix or the spice-bearing Orient, not even in the incense-times of Rome or Greece, combined in costlier profusion, or into comelier shape.

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Now the world had long been listening with wide-open ear, to catch whispers of a high and festal event, which was soon to take place, and to crown the throne of England with felicity. And not only the visible world of beings had been eagerly waiting that announcement—but the Fairy dynasty—the good people who watch over and administer to the pleasures of humankind, had long (amid the rose-bowers and purple palace-curtains of St. James and Kensington, wherein they chiefly are customed to abide,) been putting forth an eager ear to catch words or whispers, anyways announce of marriage-resolves: for soon as these should be heard, the tiny creatures of that good race, would have much more to do than we can comprehend, and much more to effect than gross humanity can possibly understand. For be it known unto all, that it is the peculiar business and province of the fairy people on such an occasion, to gather together the rich and estimable ingredients of which the nuptial cake was to be luxuriously compounded. And to omit this, would be as blamable in them, as for Southey to omit the expected Epithalamium.

Now there were two ladies at the royal Court, who, the one for her beauty, and the other for her innocent simplicity, went by the names of "Pure Heart," and "Rosy Lips," and these two fair creatures might be said to have been the keepers of the Queen's conscience, with even better title than my Lord Chancellor Cottenham. And about these sweet charmers, the sylphs and sylphids of the fairy race, beyond all else loved to hover, to entangle themselves in the tresses of their hair, or to drink in the honeyed sounds of their interchanged maiden whispers. From them was it, on the first moon of the new year, that they heard of the forthcoming marriage, and at the desired intelligence, which they so long had awaited, a thrill of confused delight ran through their fairy kith and kin, and the joyous report soon prevailed among the sylphid population,

And where are the fairies gone—whither are they fled upon a sudden? Why they are employed in a hundred fanciful ways. Some are busy in the palace green-houses and gardens, gathering fine and gossamery threads from every flower and blossom, wherewith to weave the white and silken coverlets of the couch hymeneal—others are sedulously knitting sweet-scented gloves for the queenly arms, and bosom-vestures of exquisite delicacy. But where is the grand crowd gone?—these few mentioned are but solitary lingerers in the Palace of Buckingham—where are the rest of the "ten thousand" gone; surely not with Xenophon on another "Anabasis!"

Quick answer was there to that question;—for soon a "steam of rich-distilled perfumes" rose upon the air, such as the keen sense of Milton discovered on a like occasion, and

served as the harbinger of extraordinary things. The air became gradually bright as a transparency, and the whole apartment in the occupancy of Yeoman Mawditt, extraordinary and sublime confectioner to her Majesty's Highness, was lit up with preternatural splendour. From all sides in visible beauty, were the tiny creatures of the fairy-tribe seen hastening up through keyhole and corner, cranny and crack, each bearing supereminently rich treasures, and chanting the accompanying strain.

FAIRY CHORUS.

From the ends of the earth, from the ends of the earth,
Where the citrons are gold and the guava has birth,
Where the almond-boughs shed their soft blooms on
the breeze,

And the lordliest fruitage emblazons the trees,
We have run—we have ridden—on winds vast and fleet,
To arrive in fit time with our treasure-loads sweet,
That shall powerfallest heighten, and heavenliest make,
That glory of glories—the Bride's Marriage-Cake!

We have searched out the sweet from its innermost
fold—

We've the orange-groves robbed of their ruddiest gold;
Our raisins we've chose from the vine's sweetest
clusters,

Which imbibed, as they dried, the sun's virtues and
lustres,

We've the sweetest of spices, to worthily make,
That glory of glories—the Bride's Marriage-Cake.

Nor stay we—but, one and all, valiantly fling
In a glorious heap whatsoever he may bring—
Be it sugars, or citrons, or perfumes, or spice,
Whatsoever is lusciously, fragrantly nice,
All to quickly compound, and triumphantly make,
That glory of glories—the Bride's Marriage-Cake.

Yeoman Mawditt at this stared in utter astonishment. What had become of all his paper-capped journeymen?—had they sunk into Erebus, or disappeared through trap-doors? That he knew not, but them instead, were thousands of shining little figures busily at work, building up a cake, which in comparison to themselves, was as another tower on the plains of Shinar. Marvellous indeed, was it to see those fairy cake-builders, busy as bees in sultry summer-time, when they hive up in their honeycombs the "fragrantia mella." If taste of design only equal what appears to be intended for the actual dimensions, it will beat any bride-cake ever seen. It is to be, by their rule and line, more than nine feet in circumference, by sixteen inches deep, which is to form the solid basement, on which the decorative superstructure shall be raised. Two pedestals rise from the plateau of the cake, the upper one supporting another plateau, whereon is a fair and mystical personification. A comely youth, clad in a tunic, and distinguished only by his moustache, gives his hand to a fairy queen, bearing a sceptre and crown at the altar, while Minerva (assuming the trident and spear of Britannia) presides over and consecrates their union. Round the base of the dais on which the happy couple join their hands, three little couples of Cupids and Psyche (one pair bearing a rose, another a shamrock, and a third a thistle) seem emulously imitative of the excellent example. Wreaths

and festoons of white roses, mingled with myrtle and orange flowers, form a light and graceful drapery round the ponderous mass, and render its rotundity the basis of a thousand lines of beauty and floral elegance. There are also bands and festoons of orange blossom and myrtle entwined with roses upon the plateau of the cake, and sprigs of the same placed loose, one of the latter to be given with each slice of the cake. Finally, a full border of orange-blossoms, roses and myrtle is tastefully arranged around the lower portion, and beneath is placed in happy consummation of their labours, a splendid crimson-velvet cloth.

One hundred golden guineas have already been counted out as the cost of the mere *materiel* of this ponderous cake, which weighs three hundred bulky pounds. Yes, goodmen fairies, but who of you now, having built it, shall dare to carry it, for even Atlas with his sphere-supporting shoulder, would find it no ever-light burden. But move it ye must into the royal breakfast-room, and by what means your tiny fairships will best devise.

No sooner said than done—necessity begets invention—and they who were before mere pigmies in stature, now start up to the number of four, into robust figures of personable humanity. And what wonder! Hath not Milton written, that spirits when they please can any shape assume, seeing that their essence is original and uncompounded, not manacled by joint or limb like men, but in what shape they please, dilated or condensed, can execute their purposes. Four men, even of stout body, are barely sufficient to carry those same huge three hundred pounds of conglobated spice and richness into the breakfast chamber of the Queen, the Prince, and the nobles.

The eventful morning arrived; high vows have been pledged in the chapel of Saint James': and the pageant is moving back. High time is it therefore, that the bridal cake be moving too, and accordingly the fairy yeomanry are stirring, and the mountainous cake, like a Pelion or Ossa, moves from its firm basis:—

Borne on sturdy shoulders—lo!
Like a huge mountain covered with snow,
Stately moveth that nectarous stow,
Borne by the prowess of yeomen four;
No slight burden it is, I ween,
To bear that Cake of a Bridal Queen.

Proudly as plumage that foutheth the sky,
Nodded the Bride-Cake's ornaments high,
As if endowed with a gifted sense
Of the vasty pomp which its presence lent,
And the yeomanry also seemed to tread
Prouder whenever it nodded its head.

Open your hinges, ye golden doors,
Cometh the Cake with its gorgeous stores!
And now secure in its state and pride
Doth it royally down on the table slide,
And standeth superb and haughtily proud,
Fixed by the gaze of the Royal crowd.

Long was it not, however, before the sacrificial knives of the confectionary high-

priests, soon made terrible inroads upon this magnificent pile. It need only be known, that out of the three hundred pounds composing its specific gravity, no less than two hundred and seventy pounds were eatable, dreamable, and invested with all and every virtue of mystery and morality which tradition attaches to these highly-favoured confections, to account for its speedy demolition. Nevertheless "the division of the spoil" was not selfish: unto whomsoever it was given or sent, delightful feeling of joy and happiness was now universally diffused; and when they brake the rich morsel and sipped the sweet wine, they felt in their hearts, and uttered with their lips a marriage blessing on the brows of the youthful Queen and Bridegroom of old and merry England. W. A.

CHAPEL ROYAL, ST. JAMES'S.

THIS far-famed Chapel, which forms a part of the Palace of St. James, as erected during the reign of Henry VIII., is rich in historical incidents, having been the spot of many a joyous, and some melancholy scenes, so interesting in British history. The Palace was built on the site of an hospital dedicated to St. James, founded by some pious citizens before the Conquest, for fourteen pious females; and eight brethren were afterwards added to perform divine service.

It was in the *Chapel Royal* the unfortunate monarch, Charles I., attended divine service immediately before his execution; and from hence "the King," says Whitelock, "walked through the Park, guarded with a regiment of foot and partizans, to Whitehall." His late Majesty, George IV., was married in this Chapel, as were other illustrious personages.

The whole building has been, within these few years, repaired and beautified under the direction of Sir Robert Smirke; the chaste character of whose style in architecture, as well as in interior decoration, has been here strikingly displayed. The general effect of the interior is in perfect keeping with the devotional appropriation of the building. The richly-painted ceiling, the execution of which is generally ascribed to Holbein, has, within these few years, been cleaned and revived. The new organ, erected by Messrs. Hill and Davison, is a large instrument, and contains the new and excellent mechanical contrivances for which these builders are celebrated. It's tone is very powerful and rich in varied combinations. M. Mendelssohn, M. Schlemmer, and other German organists, have pronounced it an exceedingly fine organ; and, with the exception of the York, Birmingham, and Christchurch organs, it is, unquestionably, one of the most perfect that has been erected in modern times.

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